

BACKGROUND

The EU's view on Rwanda usually tracks more closely with US and Belgian views than with French views of the current Rwandan government. Belgium and most other EU countries agree that there is an urgent need to give the Rwandan government access to sufficient financial resources to carry out normal government operations. France is skeptical of the intentions of the government and is not willing to provide direct assistance at this time. The EU has been one of the largest donors of humanitarian assistance to the Rwandan refugees and displaced persons since the present crisis began. The EU announced November 25 a grant of \$81 million for development assistance to Rwanda (separate from humanitarian aid).

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION:

- o Human Rights and Accountability
- o Efforts at Political Reconciliation in Rwanda
- o Multilateral and Bilateral Assistance to the Rwandan Government

Human Rights and Accountability:

EU Troika Views:

- The EU supports the UN's planned deployment of 100 human rights monitors in Rwanda by December 31. Belgium's efforts within the EU to expedite dispatch of the monitors have been helpful. France would like the monitors' mandate to extend to investigating and reporting on human rights violations dating back to the RPF invasion of Rwanda in August 1990, while Belgium and other EU members favor concentrating on the events which followed the April 6 plane crash.
- The EU is supportive of efforts to establish the Rwanda War Crimes Tribunal as quickly as possible and agrees with the proposed location of the Tribunal in The Hague, along with the ex-Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal.

U.S. Views/Objectives:

- We believe that immediate deployment of the human rights monitors and the establishment of the War Crimes Tribunal are critical elements for long-term stability and reconciliation in Rwanda. We are concerned about a lack of coordination within UN agencies for the monitors, and hope that they will receive adequate logistical support.
- In addition to deploying human rights monitors and getting the War Crimes Tribunal up and running, we believe that it is essential to provide assistance to Rwanda in formulating a strategy for rehabilitation of the justice system, which is essentially non-functioning at this time.

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Efforts at Political Reconciliation in Rwanda

EU Troika Views:

- There is divergence between French and Belgian views on the issue of refugee return, which the GOR believes is key to re-establishment of political stability in Rwanda. France is sympathetic to the roughly 2 million mainly Hutu refugees who do not trust the RPF, and gives credence to recent reports of RPF atrocities against returnees. Belgium agrees with our assessment that the atrocities which have occurred are isolated incidents and not indicative of a government effort to intimidate returnees.

U.S. Views/Objectives:

- We are concerned that some RPF activities serve to heighten tension between "new" Hutu refugees and internally displaced and Tutsi refugees from the 1960's who have returned to Rwanda. The RPA's frequent arrests of suspected (Hutu) war criminals and sweeps through civilian areas to seize arms are not reassuring the population.
- The ex-FAR and Hutu extremist militias are intimidating refugees and hindering repatriation, making reconciliation within Rwanda more difficult. Although the GOR has said it is willing to absorb "acceptable" members of the ex-FAR into the RPA, these efforts are still in the very early stages.

Multilateral and Bilateral Assistance to the Rwandan Government:

EU Troika Views:

- Several EU members, including the Netherlands, argue that no conditionality should be put on financial assistance to the GOR at present. These countries believe that the international community cannot judge the RPF government until it has sufficient resources to carry out normal government functions.
- Other EU members, notably France and Germany, argue that the RPF government must better demonstrate its commitment to human rights in deeds as well as words before international aid coffers are opened.

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- The EU delegation at the Friends of Rwanda meeting outlined three types of aid which need to be coordinated in Rwanda: humanitarian aid, rehabilitation assistance (including infrastructure), and operational assistance. Coordination of humanitarian aid in refugee camps outside Rwanda's borders has been good, but there needs to be better coordination of assistance within Rwanda.

U.S. Views/Objectives

- We are concerned that not nearly enough donor assistance has been located to enable the GOR to meet its estimated 1995 budgetary needs, now calculated to be about \$100 million for current expenditures and \$400 million in capital expenditures. We have pledged \$2.5 million to assist with repayment of Rwanda's arrears with the World Bank, and believe that this is one of the most effective ways of using scarce development assistance resources. Once the \$9.5 million in arrears is paid to the World Bank, Rwanda will have access to significant additional aid resources.

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